

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

The Saints Who Gather

November 2nd is All Saints Sunday. We will once again recognize the saints of St. Luke's UMC who have gone home to glory this past year.

When I look back at "the saints", the ones I have known personally and the ones I know heard or read about, I don't feel very saintly myself. I feel like the little boy Lois Wilson wrote about meeting on her front door on Halloween. He was about five and he was wearing a Superman outfit. He reached out his hand as he said, "trick or treat." Mrs. Wilson asked, "Where's your bag?" He replied, "My mom's carrying it. It's too heavy for me." Mrs. Wilson smiled and said, "But you're Superman!" He looked down at the S on his chest and looked back at Mrs. Wilson and whispered, "Not really, these are just pajamas."

St. Luke's, though the Scriptures tell us that because we're Christians, we're also saints; most of us don't believe it.

We look down at the S on our chest and then plead with God, "Not really, I'm only human." Which is the great mystery of All Saints Day. We are only indeed only human, but we are also "The saints who gather" at St. Luke's UMC.

Thanks be to God for the life, love, and legacy of this year's saints!

*Dorothy Ham
Rosemary Smith
Nita Barlow
Tom Burkett
Kathryn Hawes
Joanne Williams
Mary Evelyn Goodwin
Shirley Moore*

Faithfully,

Pastor Jim McKinney



Shoulder Ministry

The Designated Shoulder Ministry:

On October 19, the Sunday School Care Talk was focused on making us aware of the ways God wondrously provides for God's children in both our daily walk and when stormy blasts pay an unwelcome visit.

One of the ways God cares for us is having in our midst; those I call Designated Shoulders. They are God readied to be beside us especially in our life ride sieges that include:

When feathers are ruffled and want to strike back.

In a battle to leave an unholy lifestyle.

Feeling empty inside.

When tried and failed and beat our self-up.

When shaken and in the grips of fear.

After being unmercifully and thoughtlessly treated.

In need of a prayer partner.

Stuck in a huge heartache.

To revisit scripture teachings long taught that are not now so clear.

Feeling misunderstood, alienated, forsaken, and all alone in the world.

At wits end nearing our boiling point so to not boil over.

Need to scream something out or "beef" to get something off your chest.

Having a bad case of the D's – dismayed, disgusted, disappointed, distressed, despondent

To help us absorb a life shock.

Any other life situation when heart doth fail too deep for mirth or song.

These Grace Posts practice care paths free of the reasons that make so many reluctant to ask for help as for instance another breaking a trust. They are God's presence in our midst.

The jingle for Alka Seltzer expresses the intent of Designated Shoulders ministry so succinctly, "Plop plop fizz fizz oh what a relief it is" to get something heavy off our heart.

In the near future, we will be organizing a Designated Shoulder Ministry as part of our outreach related to Congregational Care. There will be an invitation extended to those who would like to be Sturdy Stations to sign on for the Shepherd Care venture followed with refreshment training for best practices. Likewise, time will be given encouraging us within our church family to get beyond past treatment and conditioning that made asking others so difficult. The two go together for this ministry to bear fruit. You can't have one without the other.

Kind regards,

Pastor Dennis Neenan





**HELP DONATE TO THOSE WITH HUNGER!
ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
SCHOOL CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

**ALL
NOVEMBER**

**480 S. HIGHLAND
MEMPHIS, TN 38111**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL COMPETE TO MAKE THE
MOST DONATIONS TO THE ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY!
EXTRA POINTS FOR HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS: PEANUT
BUTTER, TUNA, & MAC N CHEESE!**



COCOA & CAROLS



DECEMBER 7TH

11:30 A.M - 1 P.M

JOIN US IN FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY
FOR CAROLING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.

(NO MUSICAL TALENT REQUIRED)

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR ALL AGES!

COCOA, COOKIES, SANDWICHES

GINGERBREAD BOUNCE HOUSE

TAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS PHOTOS IN A

GIANT SNOW GLOBE

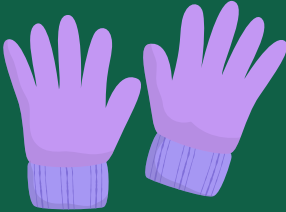


The graphic features a large green Christmas tree silhouette in the center. Above the tree is a yellow eight-pointed star. Two large yellow circles, resembling the sun or moon, are positioned on either side of the tree's top. Several small white circles are scattered in the red background. On the left side of the tree, a pair of pink socks is hanging. On the right side, a pair of brown mittens with white patterns is hanging. The title 'St. Luke's Mitten Tree' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the tree.

St. Luke's Mitten Tree

A blue winter jacket with horizontal white stripes and a high collar.

St. Luke's Mitten Tree is up and ready to be adorned for the Annual Sherwood Elementary School winter gear drive. Gifts of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, warm socks and coats are all welcome. Monetary gifts, specified for Sherwood Elementary, are also welcome on the St. Luke's giving app. Donations can be dropped in the bin or hung on the tree in the hospitality hall. Helping to keep the students warm and cozy is such a great way to share Christ's Love through the winter season.

A pair of purple gloves with white cuffs.

The Church Ladies small group, Melinda Kaler, Bette Colter, Barbara Simpson, and Jacki Romey
mtkaler1111@gmail.com



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Kidz Kountry Petting Zoo came the week before Fall Break and everyone had a wonderful time. Parents and grandparents joined us for a truly family event.

At this time of year, the weeks start flying by until Christmas! We had our Costume Parade on Friday, October 31. JK will celebrate Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Feast and Program on Friday, November 21. Our Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 17. Whew! So much going on and all so fun!



OCTOBER 2025 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Memorials:

In Memory of Hubert Riggan Jr. from Janie Hendrix

In Memory of Shirley Moore from Barbara Simpson, Mary Lou Cushing, Rorie Read

In Memory of Shirley Barber from Mary Lou Cushing

In Memory of Tommye Ann Allison from Sarah Jordan



The Evangelism team would like to thank everyone who came to our flower pot painting party in Sunday School on October 26. To show welcome and God's love to our visitors, children, youth, parents and teachers painted flower pots to hold prayer plants for our first time visitors. We are also grateful to our planters who plant and nurture the plants, to Sarah for caring for them once the plants come to church, and to our Pew Captains and Greeters who let visitors know we are glad they are worshipping with us, and to take home a prayer plant and the card that goes with it.





The Fun Bunch

Join us for the Thanksgiving Feast on November 12th at 11:00 in the Lounge. Sign up at the front desk and let us know what side you can bring. Jeanne and Jim are providing the turkey, ham, and drinks. All are welcome! **Call Jim or Jeanne Debo for any questions: 413-3341**

The United Women in Faith provided a meal for the students at Wesley Foundation on Thursday September 25 at noon. A good time was had by all.

Pictured second from left is Rev. Tondala Hayward, Director of Wesley Memphis.





Children's Ministry

In October we had our third annual Trunk or Treat and the event was another great success! We had so many families present and the upper lot was almost completely full of cars! An extra special thank you to everyone who donated candy, their time, or decorated a trunk. The St. Luke's volunteers who showed up certainly showed out with some of the most amazing trunks I have ever seen! They were so creative and fun for the kids. We also had a bounce house and added a maze this year for extra fun! The families loved the trunk or treat and the bounce house area became a gathering spot for so many families to sit and fellowship with one another in a safe environment, while their children bounced or played on the playground. This is why we do what we do; for families and kids to have a place they know they can come, feel accepted, have fun, and always be safe. If you did not get to join the fun this year, make sure you come next year because it is a blast for all involved!

Parents go ahead and get your kids excited and prepare your pantries, because we will be bringing back our canned food drive competition the whole month of November! This was a hit last year and is such a great way to teach empathy, compassion, and generosity to our young ones. Our Sunday school classes will get the chance to make Manna bags as well, which is another way to learn service and compassion in November so make sure you're on time for Sunday school! In December there will be Cocoa & Carols as well as another Holiday Hope Night on December 12th. We are also looking at having a small program where the kids can sing for the congregation one Sunday morning in Advent so parents stay tuned for more information on that as well!



Make Sunday Count!

Sunday School Classes and what they are studying

Seekers: Studying New Testament Luke as a follow-up from reading the Book of Acts. Each week will cover one chapter and on November 2 will be in chapter 3. They meet in Room 215.

Newman Class: Discussion of the book “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” by Eugene Peterson in Room 213.

Growing Disciples: Heaven by Randy Alcorn led by Charlotte Fletcher in the Library.

Christian Homebuilders are having open discussion in Room 108.

Youth: With Susan Dacus - studying “What about Forgiveness on the Third Floor.

Young Adult: Planning their next study with Michael Wofford & Phyllis Gay in the Lounge.

Sacred Rest: A book sharing continues with Jane Pate on Sunday after worship in the chapel on Nov 2, 9. Register at Hospitality Desk.

Care Talks: In the Chapel led by Dennis Neenan on November 14. The topic will be on Soulbearing.

Please contact Ruth Morrison if you have any questions :
ruthmorrison28@gmail.com

Our Church Directory is Online!

You can now view our church directory online or through the **FREE** mobile app.

To access the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on “**Send Secure Sign-In Link.**” Then check your email and click on the “**Log in to Instant Church Directory**” button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the **Apple® App Store** and the **Google Play™ Store**. Just search for “[Instant Church Directory](#)” to download.

Important: Your email address **must be listed in the directory before you can log in.**

*Print copies are available per request at the front desk.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact: Alexa at alexa.velasco@stlukesumc.org



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